

Congressman Blumenauer released the following statement on the occasion of the 3,000th American servicemember killed in Iraq:

“As we pass the milestone of 3,000 brave American men and women who have given their lives in service to our country, I honor them and their families for their commitment, selflessness and sacrifice. As 2007 begins, to do justice to that ultimate sacrifice, we owe them and all Americans a new policy to extricate ourselves from Iraq and restore America’s influence in the world.

“The idea of sending more troops to Iraq is simply wrong. We saw the ‘mini-surge’ of American troops this summer lead not just to more American casualties but to more violence, not less. The President’s stubborn adherence to a clearly failed strategy undermines our security and the wellbeing of the Iraqi people. The bipartisan recommendation of the Iraq Study Group reinforces the call that many of us made more than a year ago. It is time to start withdrawing our troops from Iraq in a responsible fashion and pursue a new diplomatic effort in order to avoid the worst possible outcome for our troops, our country and Iraq.”